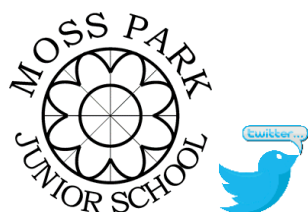


Moss Park Junior School April 2017 Newsletter



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported our Egg Decoration competition. We had over 120 entries and they all received a small prize. We awarded the 'big' prizes to:

	1 st place	2 nd place	3 rd place
3RG	Milly Waul	Ishaaq Ollite	Mia Hammond
3T	Noah Rowlands	Rayyan and Zaki Mrad	Logan White/William Whitwood
4F	Kady White	Alfie Davies	Lucy Chard
4I	Keira Blood	Hadia Saleem	Megan Ruderham
5K	Natasha Hope	Jade O' Shea	Sylvie Poupaert
5L	Amy Percival-Phillips	Lydia McCabe	Zara Green/Oliver Culshaw
6B	Eleanor Smith	Ellie Green	Oliver Hammond
6H	Callum Sexton	Esme Montgomery	Jack Kinnaird

In addition, we had brilliant group activity challenges to design and make a container for an egg that would keep the egg in one piece when dropped - the pupils worked amazingly well together and learned lots about forces.

Thanks to all those parents who came to our last Headteacher & Parents Coffee morning. We discussed:

- *The parental involvement slips. I'm going to write to people about the interests they have expressed to give you more focused information - for example volunteering in school*
- *I'm going to ask the Moss Park Infant PTA to speak to those parents who would like to set a group up here*
- *I have booked in open week for Year 4 and year 5 next half term*
- *You have seen the parent governor vacancy forms - please come and see me if you are interested. The closing date is the end of the day Monday 24th April*
- *Staffing - the Governors have agreed an extra Teaching Assistant who will work solely with pupils with SEN/D*
- *Improvements to the building - we are having new 'Teaching Walls' fitted to the school over a 2 year programme. These are built in wall to floor cupboards at the front of each classroom that have dry-wipe whiteboards and cupboards that surround the smart board. They provide a very calm focal point for teaching and learning. We are working with Pentagon Play to secure a lottery bid to improve our quads and green spaces. We'd like to create a calming, nurturing environment where pupils can relax; as well as increasing our opportunities for gardening and growing.*
- *If the sports fund is increased, thanks to the sugar tax, we are going to buy some cookers so that pupils can cook and do food technology*
- *We are working on developing a whole school vision and ethos that we all understand and promote. We are also working on using our assessment system, Target Tracker, to give you more regular updates and reports on your child's achievements and their 'next steps'.*
- *Website - we have now signed up to School Spider who are going to get everything into place for us and factor in all the things you will find useful too. You told me you would like a MPJS parent only log-in within our website so you can see more photos and videos of your child learning. We have got 5 months to get it ready and then we can launch on 1st September so watch this space.*
- *We'll be starting a verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning club for Year 5 pupils at lunchtimes after SATs*

Reading Development

It's wonderful to see how the new home/school reading diaries are being filled up with reading at home and school. Remember - there will be a 'book to film' after-school cinema event for regular home readers at the end of June.

I'll check books in the week beginning 22nd May. We have also bought a substantial amount of book banded books for our younger children and also for those children who are at the top of the bands but not quite ready for free library choice yet.

MPJS Attendance Policy review

Attendance this year so far is: 96.5% overall. This is "good, but only just good". The highest attending class so far is 6B with 97.2% and they are on track for the Attendance Champions reward.

0.7% of absence is down to holidays/unauthorised leaves of absence. The governors are reviewing our policy to make it clear what are exceptional reasons for wanting leave from school and also to give some incentives for individuals and classes to have outstanding attendance. Our school's new policy's starting point will be that we have 190 days in school for learning and 175 days out of school for families to spend time together. Unless the absence is 'RARE, UNAVOIDABLE, SIGNIFICANT and SHORT' it will not be authorised. Additionally, any absence that would tip a child's attendance down to 95% (average attendance in primary schools in the UK is 96%) will not be authorised at all. All it takes is a couple of days of illness at another point in the year and your child is looking at attendance of 90% or less - which the government defines as 'persistent absence' or 'truancy'.

Magic Moments at Moss Park Junior School

Year 3 have had a fantastic day learning all about the Romans from a living history expert. Year 4 have had a wonderful term learning all about The Tudors. They finished with an assembly and a spectacular Tudor Day yesterday, full of drama, song, dance, arts and crafts.

Year 5 were sad to say goodbye to Lostock College and Ms Welsh who, for the past term has helped us learn all about cooking and healthy eating during our food technology lessons there. 5L were lucky enough to have a visit from Swoosh who taught us all about magnets. In one lesson we used science, drama, English and even some PSHE!

Mr Pieri worked with Year 6 exploring smart materials. It goes without saying that Robinwood residential was the year 6 highlight of the year! Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Lancashire Cricket Club where they sat in the press office, learnt about the sport and players and then played cricket in the training area. Year 6 held a fantastic French horn concert for parents and carer. World Book Day and Pop Project were a huge success and the costumes looked fantastic.

Without even leaving the school hall, the whole school went to the Western Wall, The Dome of the Rock and even the Taj Mahal with our Google Expedition - what an experience!

Coming Soon

Martial arts sessions will be starting for some children in year 6 with Natasha Sweeney-Meadowcroft (ex-pupil and professional Thai kick boxing champion) - you will get individual invites for these sessions.

Dates for your Diary (some new dates added)

Monday 24 th April	Mock SATS week for year 6 - ALL IN PLEASE
Monday 1 st May	School closed for Bank Holiday Monday
Tuesday 2 nd May	Y5 to People's History Museum
Wednesday 3 rd May	School Nurse in Y5 all day (boys/girls puberty talk)
Thursday 4 th May	School closed for polling (Staff INSET day)
Monday 8 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Tuesday 16 th May	Y6 visits to Stretford Library
""	2.15pm Singing Challenge in Moss Park (whole school)
Wednesday 24 th May	Y6 Leavers' photo for year book
Thursday 25 th May	Sports Day (chance 1 if dry)

School breaks up on Friday 26th May

